

# New Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser appointed

Professor John Aston has been appointed as the Home Office's new Chief Scientific Adviser.

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## News story: New Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser appointed

Professor Aston's role will be to ensure that departmental decisions are informed by the best science and engineering evidence and advice. The Chief Scientific Adviser offers advice directly to ministers and officials and works together with the [Chief Scientific Advisers'](#) network to advise on issues that cut across government.

Professor Aston's appointment follows the retirement of Professor Bernard Silverman earlier this year. He will join the Home Office on 4 September from the University of Cambridge, where he is Professor of Statistics.

Professor Aston specialises in applied statistics but will provide advice on a range of issues at the Home Office. He was, until recently, a trustee of the Alan Turing Institute, and has previously spent much of his career working in the United States and Taiwan.

Speaking ahead of starting his new role, Professor Aston said:

I am honoured and privileged to be joining the Home Office as its Chief Scientific Adviser. I'm looking forward to working with the scientific community to understand the issues facing the Department over the coming years and identify how science, engineering and analysis can help to overcome those challenges.

Patsy Wilkinson, Second Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, said:

Professor Aston brings with him a wealth of experience that will be of great value in ensuring the work we do to keep our country safe and secure continues to be supported by the latest scientific advice and research.

Professor Sir Mark Walport, the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, said:

Having access to high-quality expert scientific advice is critical to every government department. I am delighted to welcome someone with Professor Aston's expertise to the Chief Scientific Advisers' network and look forward to working with him.

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## **New Foresight project to investigate the future of mobility**

The project will explore the opportunities and implications arising from the future transport system in the UK.

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## **News story: New Foresight project to investigate the future of mobility**

*Updated:* Added link to project page.

Technological developments and disruptive business models will have a significant impact on how people and goods move around the UK over the coming decades. The Government Office for Science's [new Foresight project](#) will investigate how these issues will affect the transport of people and goods up to 2040.

Commenting on the project, Sir Mark Walport, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, said:

Understanding what the future of transport could hold is important for society and government.

Policy makers need to think about the longer term future of transport in order to make informed decisions today to shape the way people and goods move in the future.

The Foresight Future of Mobility project will help policy makers to think about the future of transport by providing the latest scientific evidence and tools.

The project is developing evidence in the following areas:

- the interaction between people, technology and data
- new transport business models
- alternate transport futures

These areas will develop over the course of the project.